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	INR-00	IO-16	L-01	ADS-00	NEA-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119032

ADDIS AND DAR FOR A/S SHATTUCK PARTY; YAOUNDE FOR DATT

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS PHUM PGOV PREL RW BY TZ CG
SUBJECT: RWANDAN GENERAL GIVES SITUATION REPORT

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SUMMARY. RWANDAN GENERAL LEONIDAS RUSATIRA TOLD AF/C

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FIGHTING WAS HEAVY MAY 3/4 IN AND AROUND KIGALI. HE ACKNOWLEDGED ABUSES ON THE GOVERNMENT SIDE BUT SUGGESTED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ALSO LOOK AT RPF ACTIONS. HE BLAMED HARDLINE RADIO RTLM FOR ENCOURAGING THE POPULATION TO BLOCK EVACUATION FROM THE CENTRAL KIGALI HOTEL. HE CONTENDED SOME MINISTERS ARE BEGINNING TO FUNCTION, ADVOCATED GOR/RPF NEGOTIATIONS AND ENDORSED AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE TO ALLOW PERSONS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. END SUMMARY.

HEAVY FIGHTING

3. GENERAL LEONIDAS RUSATIRA, CURRENTLY COMMANDER OF THE RWANDAN MILITARY TRAINING SCHOOL, TOLD AF/C IN TELCON 5/4 THAT HEAVY FIGHTING OCCURRED IN KIGALI 5/3 AND 5/4 IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF KICUKIRO AND GATENGE, SOUTHWEST OF THE AIRPORT, AND ON THE HIGHEST HILL OVERLOOKING KIGALI NEAR THE REBERO-HORIZON RESTAURANT, OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE FORMER PRESIDENT'S SON. HE CONFIRMED THAT THREE UN SOLDIERS WERE WOUNDED AT THE AIRPORT 4/4. THE CENTER OF

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TOWN, HE SAID, HAS NOT BEEN TOUCHED, BUT DOES RECEIVE SOME MORTAR FIRE AT NIGHT.

EVACUATION FROM THE MILLES COLLINES

4. ASKED ABOUT THE ABORTED EVACUATION OF THE PEOPLE SAFE-HAVENED AT THE MILLES COLLINES HOTEL, RUSATIRA SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO EVACUATE THEM AND THE UN FORCES (UNAMIR) HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE ESCORT. HOWEVER, HE SAID, RADIO RTLM, AN EXTREMIST HUTU STATION, HAD CALLED ON THE POPULATION AND SOLDIERS TO KEEP THE PEOPLE FROM LEAVING. HE CLAIMED THAT SOLDIERS AT THE HOTEL HAD INSTRUCTED THE RADIO STATION TO MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT. THEIR RATIONALE, HE SAID, WAS THAT NOT ALL THE PEOPLE AT THE HOTEL HAD YET BEEN FULLY IDENTIFIED.

5. RUSATIRA SAID HE AND OTHERS WERE URGING THE PRIME MINISTER TO COUNTER THE RTLM STATEMENT AND TELL THE POPULATION TO LET THE PEOPLE GO. THEY HAVE SENT MESSAGES TO THIS EFFECT TO THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS STILL IN GITARAMA, A TOWN 50 MILES SOUTHWEST OF KIGALI, WITHOUT WORKING TELEPHONES. INDEED, HE SAID, NO TELEPHONES ARE WORKING FROM KIGALI INTO THE INTERIOR.

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6. AF/C NOTED THAT THE WORLD WAS WATCHING WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PERSONS AT THE MILLES COLLINES AND URGED THAT MILITARY AUTHORITIES BE ENCOURAGED TO DO ALL IN THEIR POWER TO ENSURE A SAFE EVACUATION. RUSATIRA REMINDED AF/C THAT THERE WERE OTHERS TRAPPED IN SIMILAR, EQUALLY DIFFICULT, SITUATIONS. HE CITED THE STADIUM AT CYANGUGU, IN THE SOUTHWEST, WHERE SOME 4,500 PERSONS REMAIN. HE

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SAID LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE DENIED ACCESS TO ICRC PERSONNEL WHO ARE TRYING TO REACH THE SITE FROM NEIGHBORING BUKAVU, IN ZAIRE. AF/C ENCOURAGED RUSATIRA TO KEEP TRYING TO INFLUENCE THOSE MILITARY OFFICERS IN CONTROL TO EXERCISE THEIR AUTHORITY TO PROTECT THE POPULATION.

CONFIRMS ABUSES

7. RUSATIRA ACKNOWLEDGED THE KILLING OF THE ORPHANS AND RWANDAN RED CROSS STAFF IN BUTARE. HE COUNTERED THAT, ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, 350 ORPHANS AND THEIR STAFF HAD BEEN SAFELY EVACUATED 4/4 FROM GISENYI, IN NORTHERN RWANDA, TO NEIGHBORING GOMA, IN ZAIRE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHOULD ALSO TRY TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE RPF ZONE.

RADIO BROADCASTS

8. RUSATIRA SAID THAT PRIVATELY-OWNED RTLM REMAINS ON THE AIR, BUT ONLY REACHES KIGALI AND HAS ONLY SHORT, INTERMITTENT BROADCASTS. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED RADIO RWANDA, ON THE OTHER HAND, EXTENDED IN BROADCASTING DAY BY ONE HOUR, TO MIDNIGHT. IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY, RUSATIRA SAID THE CONTENT OF THE RADIO MESSAGES DEPENDED ON WHO WAS DELIVERING THEM. SOME, HE SAID TRIED TO CALM THE POPULATION. OTHERS, SUCH AS A STATEMENT MADE BY THE MINISTER OF FAMILY AFFAIRS IN GISENYI, ARE NOT/NOT MESSAGES OF PACIFICATION. (HE DID NOT ELABORATE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE.)

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ARUSHA TALKS

9. AF/C INFORMED RUSATIRA THAT THE TWO SIDES WERE IN ARUSHA BUT NOT YET TALKING WITH EACH OTHER AND NOTED THE TWO SIDES HAD YET TO IDENTIFY VIABLE INTERLOCUTORS. RUSATIRA SAID RPF CHAIRMAN KANYARENGWE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW WITH RADIO FRANCE INTERNATIONAL (RFI) THAT THE ARUSHA PEACE ACCORD WAS SATISFACTORY AND THAT THERE WAS, THEREFORE, NO NEED FOR NEW NEGOTIATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, THE GOVERNMENT WANTS NEW NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO PUT THE GOVERNMENT IN PLACE.

KEEP UP THE MESSAGES

10. RUSATIRA PRAISED U.S. EFFORTS TO END THE MASSACRES. HE SAID INTERVENTIONS OF PRESIDENT CLINTON AND OTHERS APPEARED TO BE HAVING A POSITIVE EFFECT ON CALMING THE SITUATION.

IN DANGER?

11. AF/C ASKED IF THOSE IN THE MILITARY URGING AN END TO THE MASSACRES (I.E., HIMSELF AND OTHER MODERATES) WERE IN DANGER THEMSELVES. HE REPLIED IN THE NEGATIVE, SAYING THAT FOR NOW THEY ARE ABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES ADEQUATELY.

THE FUTURE

12. RUSATIRA TOLD AF/C THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE THE MECHANISM FOR ENDING THE FIGHTING. HE CLAIMED THAT THE
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SITUATION IS NOT ANALOGOUS TO SOMALIA. ONLY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE WANT THE CARNAGE TO CONTINUE; MOST WANT PEACE. HE CONTENDED THAT SOME MINISTERS IN THE GOVERNMENT AND SOME INSTITUTIONS ARE BEGINNING TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES TO CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS. HE ENDORSED AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE THAT WOULD ALLOW PEOPLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

COMMENT

13. RUSATIRA, WHO USED TO HOLD THE POWERFUL POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHEN PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA RETAINED THE DEFENSE PORTFOLIO, HAS BEEN SIDELINED SINCE HE WAS MOVED TO THE MILITARY SCHOOL IN

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JUNE 1992. NEVERTHELESS, HE KNOWS INTIMATELY THE PERSONS WHO ARE CURRENTLY RUNNING THE MILITARY SHOW AND APPEARS TO BE DOING WHAT HE CAN TO INFLUENCE THEM TO END THE HORROR. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH COMMENTS AND ANALYSES PROVIDED EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN RECENT MONTHS. THERE ARE OTHERS IN THE MILITARY WHOSE VIEWS COINCIDE WITH RUSATIRA'S. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE SUPPORT THEM AND DO ALL WE CAN TO PROTECT THEM FROM POTENTIAL RETALIATION.

14. BUJUMBURA MININMIZE CONSIDERED.

CHRISTOPHER

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